

Letters from  
Sir Charles  
Blagden to Sir  
Joseph Banks  
on American ...

Sir Charles  
Blagden

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.



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## BULLETIN

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NEW YORK  
1903

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NOV 27 1920

LETTERS FROM SIR CHARLES BLAGDEN TO SIR JOSEPH BANKS  
ON AMERICAN NATURAL HISTORY AND POLITICS, 1776-1780.

Printed from the originals in the New York Public Library.

JULY 7 1776

MY DEAR FRIEND,

From the vilest, most enervating, most unwholesome climate that can be conceived, & from the most distressing situation in that climate, deprived of fresh meat, vegetables, & every kind of refreshment, I have scarcely the spirit to send a letter, or the hope that it will be read. One that I had the happiness of sending from Cape Fear perhaps is not yet arrived, as the schooner which took it was to go round by the North. I got about 20 plants for you at Cape Fear, but it is next to impossible to dry them properly in this humid mould-breeding climate; these, with about a dozen species of Fish, are all the objects of natural history that I have yet been able to procure. May 31<sup>st</sup> we left Cape Fear & next day anchored off Bull's Harbour: which we left on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, & that same day anchored off the Bar of Charlestown: on the 10<sup>th</sup> we got within the Bar, and soon afterwards all the troops encamped upon Long Island. See the Draught of Charlestown Harbour in the Map of N. & S. Carolina published by Jefferies in 4 sheets. I was left in the Harbour to take care of the sick there, & had no opportunity of going ashore. The engagement on the 28<sup>th</sup> I observed with my Reflector from this ship: it was a wonderful scene, & will do the greatest honour to the resolution & intrepidity of the heroes of your favourite Profession. The event was different from what most, but not all, the naval officers expected; I fear very unfortunate in its consequences for the British Empire: it may, however, tend to unite at length our divided countrymen. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June I had an opportunity of observing, in a favourable situation a remarkable water-spout, & felt the pleasure you so well conceive from having so sensibly experienced it, of being able to explain all the phenomena by the common & well established laws of Electricity. In this instance the extremity of an heavy black cloud was attracted toward the sea 19 parts for example, & the sea toward the cloud one part; many portions of the cloud felt the attractive power, but not strongly enough to be forced down all the way to the sea contrary to their specific gravity; this occasioned the tapering form of the descending column of cloud, biggest upward; in like manner many portions of the sea felt the attractive power of the cloud, but not strongly enough to be raised so high as the portion immediately under it: hence the boiling motion of the sea, with an appearance something like that of the top of your figure of the Geyser. I am now writing amidst such thunders & lightening as Mr Burke must allow to be truly sublime; I am much struck with the fine purple colour of the fire, far beyond anything I had seen in England. The greatest heat we have yet found on board ship has been 89  $^{\circ}$ , & that only twice, but the country all around reeks in such a manner, that whenever I view Charlestown from hence with my Telescope,

at the distance of about 5 or 6 miles, it appears just like an object seen over a limekiln.

This is all the philosophy I have been able to muster, except the correcting a mistake which may not perhaps prove one: the Cabbage Tree of Bald Head is here called Palmetto & of course should be the *Chamærops humilis*; but the remains of the fructifications which I procured there, shewed a racemus which I thought approached nearer to the *Borassus* than to the *Chamærops*, & some of the trees were 50 or 60 feet high. Were I to write you a longer letter I must deviate into Politics, a maze from which you had kept happily free, when I wished you a long farewell. Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton desired to be remembered to you with every expression of regard; parou tajo mitai, harrewhai, aime taio. My health is but indifferent; I loved vegetables & have scarcely ever tasted any but the old farinaceous ones for 5 months, & been confined to salt meat for two: our fresh stock was exhausted at our arrival in Cape Fear River, partly by the negligence of M<sup>r</sup> Hatton Master of the Transport, who has behaved to me in every respect with the utmost brutality, which it might not be amiss, perhaps, to hint to M<sup>r</sup> Durand if you should happen to see him. Forgive my weakness, so very different from your own feelings, but I am often tempted to curse my ambition. To make my situation more pleasant I must, however, request you, that if any of your friends should be sent out to America, you would do me the Honour of introducing me to their acquaintance. M<sup>r</sup> Knowles has always treated me with the most obliging attention; & I had great pleasure in meeting here Captain Gurneaux in the *Siren*, who desires to be particularly remembered to you: he & all his men escaped unhurt in the late engagement, the ship received one or two shots. Cap<sup>t</sup> Tollemache was left to take care of Cape Fear Harbour. Be so kind as to remember me to Miss Banks, M<sup>r</sup> & Mrs. Hodgkinson, & all your Friends, to whom I have the Honour of being known.

Your most affectionate

C BLAGDEN.

Pigot Hospital Ship,  
Five Fathom Hole  
Entrance of Rebellion Rood  
Charlestown: July 7, 1776

P. S. I was going to write to Dr Solander, when I heard that the Dispatches were just ready to sail; if it be true I can not get a letter, but if there should be any delay I will.

Jos. BANKS Esq<sup>r</sup>.

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JANY 3 /77

MY DEAR FRIEND.

Accept my sincerest thanks for your kind remembrance in sending me Gibbon's very elegant publication. I found it a very seasonable amusement at a time when my health & spirits were at the lowest ebb. All the Hospital staff which came out with me is preparing for a new Expedition under General Clinton, of whom I cannot say that he has hitherto shewn me much favour; but we have great hopes of a comfortable winter with my Lord Piercy, who will be left Com-

mander in Chief when Gen<sup>l</sup> Clinton sails for England. We suspect that the place of our destination is Rhode Island.

My bad state of health & the necessary attendance upon the Hospitals, have left me few opportunities of making such observations as could be interesting to any but medical people, & what gives me most pain, have put it out of my power to make any collection of plants since my arrival in New York Harbour. I found a few near Cape Fear River, & on the little Island where the Lighthouse of Charlestown stands, but the heat & dampness of the climate rendered them a little mouldy in spite of all the care I could take. The climate of Charlestown I found at least as bad as it is represented; but excepting a few rainy days toward the latter end of August, the weather here continued fine, without interruption, till the twentieth of this month; since which time it has been rainy. Of course it has been a much pleasanter autumn than I ever knew; but many days in Sept<sup>r</sup> were by far too warm, the thermometer rising above 80°. About 89° is the greatest heat I ever observed near Charlestown Bar, but then the thermometer scarcely ever sunk to 80°; even the slight coolness produced by the constant thunder-storms was almost momentary.

I learn that Dr Maty is dead, but have not been informed who has succeeded him in the Museum; I hope Dr Solander. In the Royal Society his place may easily be supplied to advantage, but I cannot guess whom you would choose among the many competitors. The hurry of our preparations will not permit me to write any thing more, than to desire that you would do me the Honour of remembering me to Miss Banks, M<sup>r</sup> Hodgkinson's Family, & our other Friends.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your most affectionate

C BLAGDEN.

NEW YORK  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 1776

NEWPORT IN RHODE ISLAND  
JAN. 12 1777

DEAR SIR,

Not having received any letters from you or Dr. Solander since I came into this country & L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave not mentioning you in his Letters, I sometimes begin to doubt whether you have not left England upon another expedition: however I venture to send you by our friend Captain Vandeput the very few plants I have been able to collect. In the Carolinas it was impossible for me to procure more; & afterwards my health was too bad to permit me to make use of my opportunities upon Long Island. The degree of cold here has not yet exceeded 12° of Fahrenheit's Thermometer, & I have no reason from the accounts of the inhabitants to expect that it will be much greater. Captain Vandeput has been extremely obliging in lending me the Timekeeper which was sent out with him by the Board of Longitude; I find it now gaining at the rate of 21" a day upon mean time, & I have had the true time upon this meridian very exactly for several days, in hopes of ascertaining the Longitude by an eclipse of one of Jupiter's Satellites, but it has always been cloudy. If any more of these Watches should be sent out

to any part of America where I am, I wish that you & my L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave could contrive to have them lent to me, if the persons to whom they are entrusted happen to be of your acquaintance; for my watch made by Cumming goes so ill, that it cannot be trusted even for very short intervals. I make the Latitude of this place  $41^{\circ} 28\frac{1}{2}'$  N. & the Longitude seems to be about  $70^{\circ}$  W. of Greenwich, but I cannot depend upon the observation upon which the Longitude is calculated. There is an animal upon this Island called a Rabbit, I believe because its flesh is white, for in the external appearance it more resembles a hare, and it agrees with Linnæus's specific characters of the hare, *cauda abbreviata, auriculis apice nigris*. However its taste, & another striking circumstance, that it burroughs in the ground, evidently distinguish it from that species. In external appearance also it is not so like the European hare as to be mistaken for it, though for want of a specimen to compare I cannot point out the differences; but I think the tail is a great deal shorter, the ears broader, & flatter in the middle & not quite so long, the toes more stunted, & I believe only four on either foot. Probably you know the species, but it certainly is not inserted in the *Systema Naturæ*. We have not penetrated far enough into the country for me to resolve any of the queries with which you favoured me. Remember me most affectionately to L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave & Dr Solander. Be so kind as to send me, if you can possibly find an opportunity, the *Nautical Ephemeris* for this year & for 1778 if it be published.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your most affect. Friend,  
C BLAGDEN

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MAY 3, 1777

MY DEAR SIR,

From the beginning of your Favour of last December I am very much afraid that several of my Letters have not reached you. This makes the sixth which I shall have sent: two before we came to New York & three since. The only one which I have received from you is dated the 29th of December 1776; but the curious information it contains raises its value above whole packets on common subjects. An electrical sense, a new organ for discerning the properties of bodies, & that like sight & hearing, without immediate contact, is a discovery of the first importance for enlarging our ideas with respect to the faculties of animals. Nor will the Indian *Hedysarum* & the observations suggested by it, tend much less to improve our notions of vegetable life, by putting in a clearer point of view that irritability upon which their economy principally depends.

Captain Vandeput, when he sailed for England last January, kindly undertook the care of conveying to you the few plants which I had collected to the southward. Though I was conscious that they could be of no use to you, yet the temptation of showing that I had wished to comply with your instructions was too great to be resisted. If you had patience to look over them you would see a fragment of the racemos of a Palm just budded; it was taken, in the month of July, Cabbage-Tree of the Carolinas, & seemed to my unskilful eye different from that

of the *Chamærops humilis*. Since the severity of the winter has been abated, I have procured a few specimens of birds, chiefly of the genus *Anas*, which do not seem distinctly described by Linnæus, though I suppose they are to be found in most collections as North gives a long list of names of species which he could not reduce to those of the *Systema Naturæ*. I cannot help showing with respect to this Gentleman's Catalogue, that the English names seem to have been mostly coined at home, even for the commonest & best known birds; for instance, the *Alauda Magna* of Linnæus, instead of being called a *Crescent*, is known all over the country by the name of *Meadow Lark*; and the *Turdus migratorius*, which Mr. Forster confounds with our field-fare, is as familiar to every child in America under the name of *Robin*, as the little bird its namesake is in England.

The winter here is not esteemed so pleasant as upon the Continent, the clear settled frost of the latter being ill exchanged for the variable & raw, though less cold weather of this Island. I never saw the Thermometer below +6 of Fahrenheit's scale, but as the ☀ was at this point a little after sunrise, it had, probably, been two or three degrees lower that morning, the 18th of January. The Barometer seems to me not to sink so low as in similar situations in England; I live about 100 yards above the level of the sea, & have very seldom seen the quicksilver down to  $29\frac{1}{2}$  inches in the course of the winter. Only one *Aurora borealis* has been remarked, which was on the 4th of April in the evening, and not very luminous.

I do not expect to remain much longer here, as Dr. Morris has signified to me his intention of calling upon me soon to assist him with the main army. I hope my health, which is now pretty well recovered, will stand the fatigues of the summer, that I may contribute my mite toward promoting the great cause in which every Englishman is so deeply interested.

I am, dear Sir,  
Your most obliged & affect. Friend

C BLAGDEN.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

MAY 3, 1777

L<sup>d</sup> Percy goes home in this Packet: he is a much better informed man, even on scientific subjects, than is commonly imagined, & I think that independently of his rank you would be pleased with his acquaintance. I forgot to mention that your Cousin Cap<sup>a</sup> Banks is here, & not in a very good state of health; he was so ill in the winter, that Dr. Nooth attended him a long time.

JOS. BANKS Esq.

JULY 15 1777

MY DEAR FRIEND

As Lord Mulgrave mentions in his last Letter that you had sent me Capt<sup>a</sup> Cook's account of his Voyage, I think it necessary to inform you that I have not yet received it. The last of Letter of yours which came to me was dated the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1776; my last to you was sent by the Packet in which Lord Percy sailed for England. I am not a little surprised at finding the climate here so extremely temperate; on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month the Thermometer rose no higher than 58. I

have not seen it more than three or four times above  $72^{\circ}$ , & that no longer than two or three hours: the common temperature is between 60 and 70, with a fine refreshing breeze most part of the day. But at no greater distance than the North end of this Island the weather is sensibly hotter and more sultry.

Our accounts from the Westward are not very favourable, at least with regard to the lateness of the Campaign; for it appears that at the end of last month Sir William Howe had evacuated the Jerseys, & embarked his Army on board Transports lying in the Narrows below New York. We have this account from the Rebels, who imagine that he is going to fall upon the New England Provinces. The Rebels have evacuated the old French Lines at Ticonderoga, and retired to Mount Independence, a pretty strong Post about half a mile distant; but we imagine that want would soon oblige them to leave it, was no attack to be made.

In the night between the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of this month the Rebels unfortunately surprised Gen. Prescott who commanded here, & M<sup>r</sup> Barrington his Aid-de-Camp, & carried them off prisoners to Providence. The General has fixed his Quarters about half way between the camp which covers this town, & that at the North end of the Island, for the convenience of both: he was about half a mile from the western coast of this Island, which he thought sufficiently protected by the ships stationed near it: & indeed it astonishes every body how five boats with 40 men could pass pretty near three ships of war guarding a coast, & land within cannon shot of one of them, without being discovered. The Gen. & M<sup>r</sup> Barrington are to be sent to Lebanon, where Gov. Trumbull resides, about 40 miles to the westward in Connecticut. I shall join the main army as soon as possible, having received orders some time ago to that purpose

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obliged & affect. Friend

C BLAGDEN.

NEWPORT, RHODE-ISLAND

July 15. 1777.

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OCT. 28 1777

MY DEAR FRIEND.

At New York, in my way from Rhode-Island to join the Army, I received most of the Letters which you had been so kind as to send me, some of them dated a year before; together with the parcels, which all came safe. The last Letter is dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1777 mentioning the things which Captain Swanton undertook to bring; when I left New York he was not arrived: but I have learned since that he got them safe to New York. General Paterson also is arrived, & I suppose has brought Cook's Voyage: but we have no communication with the Army, consequently can know nothing. To us who have been detained aboard the ships, be assured, my dear Friend, that the present expedition has proved little inferior to that of South Carolina for want & distress of every kind; God grant that it may not be equally prejudicial to the public cause, but the present appearances are by no means favourable. (Oct. 27) However this Letter is not likely to be sent away till more decisive events have occurred. The loss of the Augusta, attended with the shocking circumstance of so many brave men, wounded in the service of

their country, being blown up in her, makes a deep impression on my spirits, previously sunk by a relapse into that febrile state which reduced me so low last autumn. I left Rhode-Island in the highest glow of health, and am now, to my own feelings, a most miserable wretch. The discovery comes too late, but the experience of these expeditions has amply convinced me of my total unfitness for the office I so warmly solicited. But what principally affects me, though I have still hopes that it may not be true, is a shocking report propagated here with great confidence, that Lord Mulgrave is lost in the Ardent. I have written to him part of a letter, which I will enclose under a cover to you if I have not learned anything more certain with respect to the Ardent when the Packet sails from hence. Should it be true that we have met with so fatal a loss, take the trouble of reading the letter yourself, lest it should contain any thing that you might be sorry not to know.

At leaving Rhode-Island, the latter end of July, I put aboard the Brigantine Betsey, a Navy Victualer commanded by M<sup>r</sup>. Callaway, twelve Kegs filled with Birds & Fishes, which I had collected in that Island & preserved in Rum. Upon my appointment to the employment which brought me hither, M<sup>r</sup>. Barrington desired that I would collect what things fell in my way for the use of his friend M<sup>r</sup> Lever. After considering as maturely as I could what would best answer every body's purpose, I thought that desiring you & M<sup>r</sup>. Barrington to accept the collection jointly between you, would be the properest step. M<sup>r</sup>. Lever wants any thing that he happens not to have in his Museum, whether it tends to illustrate Science or not; on the contrary nothing can be an object to you but what will conduce to the improvement of natural History as a branch of Philosophy. Having no assistance but Linnaeus's System, you very well know that I cannot judge with certainty whether any of the animals are new, or worthy your examination; but as I have some hopes that two or three of them are so, it would be a pity to let them perish without a proper specific description in the appropriate language of the Science. I described most of them, whilst recent, in English rudely, adding the names by which they were known at Rhode Island, & whatever other particulars I could learn; all which would be a considerable addition to my description you might make, but as it stands at present is perfectly unintelligible, nor does the present appearance of affairs afford me the least prospect of being able to put it into more regular form. Most of the animals are sewed up in linen which I believe will be found a most excellent method of preserving them: they have likewise numbers which refer to the descriptions, & are counted thus. A string is tied to some part of the animal with its two ends of a length suited to the number to be expressed: every *single* knot on either or both of these ends stands for a unit; every *double* knot, that is, two single knots close together, stands for 10; and a *loop* at one end of the string means 100. Thus if the number was 68, you would find on one end of the string 12 knots, in pairs close together with alternate spaces; that is, 6 double knots; & on the other end 8 single knots; if I had wanted to express 168 I should have tied one end of the string into a loop. All my apprehensions are, lest the coolness which has subsisted between you & Mr. B. should make this division unpleasant; but if it be possible, wave that on the present occasion out of your friendship to me; if it be not possible, the last resource

is, that you will each be so kind as to take six kegs apiece: At the same time consider, that at least 19 out of 20 of the things sent must be mere trumpery, fit only to be thrown upon the dunghill; for I took all that offered. In one of the Kegs are a few fish collected at South-Carolina; which are distinguished by shot tied to them in a small bag, the number of shot referring to a number under which they are described. I spent the greatest part of the month of August at New-York, where Sir H. Clinton told me that you had mentioned me to him, & shewed me the most marked civility & attention. The beginning of September I arrived at the Head of Chesapeak Bay, but all communication with the army was then cut off, & has remained so to the shipping ever since. All the circumstances that occurred to me in these different voyages, I have related minutely in my letter to L. Mulgrave, which you will certainly see one way or the other, I hope to God from himself. I am now aboard a miserable Transport crowded with sick, who are dying every day of various disorders but all complicated with scurvy, & incapable of relief; Dr. Morris is in the same situation, except that he has a good ship, an East-Indiaman: whereas the true method of making us useful would be, to bring us as near as possible to the army, where we might give assistance to healthy men suddenly taken sick. We lie off Newcastle in the River Delaware, very ill supplied with every kind of refreshment; but the men of war fare better. Rhode-Island is just an English country, covered with the same herbage & consequently one of the worst places in the world for collecting plants: however there is a rocky Island near it, where I got a few species, & had great hopes of finding something curious in the course of the summer; but unfortunately it was found necessary to send the people sick of the small-pox thither, which cut off all communication at once. But my opportunities of collecting Birds & Fishes were much better at Rhode-Island than they can be in other parts of America; there I was not so much left in the crowd as I must be every where else; & different circumstances had thrown me into a fair train; on this account I regretted being ordered from thence; & now regret it a thousand times more since I find my health so sensibly impaired. There is one circumstance with respect to the publication of the last voyage round the world which I do not comprehend: your letter says that Foster had given up writing his account of it, but I now find that he has printed it, & even before Capt Cook: Perhaps the prefaces will explain this matter; but it savours strongly of his usual inconsistency.

Yours most affectionately

C BLAGDEN.

OFF NEWCASTLE IN THE RIVER DELAWAR

OCT. 28, 1777.

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PHILADELPHIA

DEC<sup>R</sup> 15, 1777.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have just received your Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> of September. My situation in the army has hitherto been such, that no Letters have reached me but after long delays. Captain Swanton sent me the parcel with Forsters Voyage from New York: Gen.

Patisson is arrived here, & has given me the pacquet containing Cook's Voyage, & some other books. I have seen here another copy of Cook's Voyage belonging to Lord Howe, but mine is much the best impression of the plates, for which I well know to whom I am indebted. I am at a loss to say whether the emptiness of Forster's Voyage, or the infernal impudent cant tired me most; his preface is a sufficient proof of great knavery, but nobody has yet informed me of the particulars. Cook's matter is excellent, his information interesting, & his selection of details judicious; but his style somewhat disfigures the narration. The article in the Critical Review which gives an account of the two publications, seems to have been composed by Forster himself, for his spelling of Indian names is preserved. I do not conceive in what manner the circumstance that Penfleet Magazine was struck by lightning can possibly determine the question about blunt & pointed conductors; and I hope the Royal Society will not give its enemies further occasion of triumph, by entering into a public dispute. You have never informed me why Mr. Cavendish & Maskelyne were left out of last year's Council. I sent you a letter by the Harriet packet, which sailed the latter end of October, mentioning a little collection I had sent from Rhode Island for you & Mr. Barrington. Since that time it has not been in my power to do anything. I have not been here much above a fortnight, so long was the fleet detained by the fortifications on the Delaware which are said not to have been in any state of defence when we peeped into the river last August. We have once more exposed our weakness by marching out to attack the rebels last week, & then walking back again almost as soon as we had seen them. It is said that the Guides took us the wrong road; that we should have gone close to the Schuylkill all the way. If affairs go on quietly with you next winter, I shall begin to think that the political ladder is not so dangerous to be mounted as is commonly represented. To judge from the present appearance of things I most sincerely repent my engaging in the service; as I now see no prospect but that of dragging out the prime years of my life in a situation which jars perpetually with my feelings, & with the only amusements that interest me. I sent you a letter for L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave by the Harriet Packet.

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PHILADELPHIA. JAN<sup>Y</sup> 21, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

If I should be fortunate enough ever to see London again, I shall most ardently obey the injunction of your last Letter, leave New-Burlington-Street behind me, & hasten away to Soho Square. But this is an happiness of which I now almost despair. The Americans, elated with success, will resist more vigorously than ever; & we must get more wisdom & more strength before we can subdue them. Unless some fortunate event should unexpectedly deliver me from my present comfortless situation, I am not likely to behold the stately towers that adorn the Thames, till my eyes are too dim to be feasted with the spectacle.

It appears by some English Magazines that Wilson, not content with publishing on the subject of knobs & points, has been exhibiting experiments in such a con-

spicuous theatre as the Pantheon. This dispute stands a chance of becoming so perplexed by the subtlety of both parties, that a plain man will be obliged to reject the use of the conductor, to avoid the trouble of determining which is the proper sort. On the subject of electricity I was lately entertained very much by Col. Murray's description of his grand *Electrophor*, the instrument, I imagine, which Mr. Henly describes in the 32<sup>d</sup> article of the 2<sup>d</sup> part of the philosophical Transactions for the year 1776: He says it far exceeded those made by Adams, Nairne or any of the other instrument-makers, & would give sparks at all times, to the distance of six or seven inches. He also assured me that he had seen the spark from the *gymnotus electricus* ten or twelve different times. In the College of this City there is an Orrery of which the Professors boast very much. That kind of excellence which can be expected in an Orrery it certainly possesses: the motions of the planets, are more exactly imitated, more circumstances which have an influence upon their revolutions are attended to, than in any instrument that has ever been described. But I think those who have not capacity to comprehend all this from descriptions & diagrams, would do better in not meddling with the science; & the instrument itself affords an instance of ingenuity & labour which might have been employed much more usefully for the benefit of mankind.

As early as the month of August in New-York, & even before I left Rhode-Island, the people of the country began to foretell a severe winter. This conjecture was chiefly founded upon the wetness of the summer. Later in the autumn the flight of several kinds of birds, particularly of the genus *anas*, was said to confirm the prognostic, & it was still further established by the weather in October, toward the latter end of which month I saw the thermometer at 20°. But November, & still more remarkably December, have been extremely fine, the latter month nearly such as our best Octobers, though rather colder. A little snow fell several times, but it never covered the ground to any depth till the 28 of Dec<sup>t</sup>; and on the 30<sup>th</sup> of that month the thermometer was down to 4° at sunrise, two degrees lower than I ever saw it at Rhode-Island. This froze up the River; not so completely, however, but that the tide of flood forced it open: next morning it was fast again, the thermometer at 70°, but the tide of flood broke it up as before: since that time it has always been more or less open. By the third of January the Thaw was complete; & for some days the Thermometer was at all times above 40°, some, in the middle of the day, at 51°. This month there has not hitherto been any frost that lasted above four days together; once, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Thermometer sank to 11° at sunrise; & another time, on the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16°. It has snowed frequently, but in no great quantities: the heaviest fall was on the 17<sup>th</sup> preceded by such a deluge of rain for more than 12 hours, as is rarely seen; this rain was terminated by another fall of snow after which the wind changed from about S., to W., & the weather cleared up. In Philadelphia I have scarcely ever seen the wind between S. & E., though at Rhode-Island it was very frequently in that quarter; & the weather which such winds used to bring on there, we have here when they blow from SW. to S. At Rhode-Island, likewise, the most intense cold always came from the N.W. or rather more to the N.; but here it has hitherto been produced by winds above two points more to the westward; when the thermometer was at 4° on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, a pretty fresh breeze blew from W by N, varying to WNW.

I have never seen the wind here further to the E. than NNE, & that but once. My Barometer, in a situation more than 100 feet above the the level of the Delaware, stands considerably above the average height in London. At the beginning of the heavy rain & snow on the 17<sup>th</sup>, it stood at 30,14, & during the whole time fell no lower than 29,47. The same thing struck me at Rhode-Island, particularly in the winter; and I cannot help suspecting that the extremes of variation are not only further asunder, but its middle point rather higher, here than in England.

Remember me most respectfully to Dr Solander: How happened it that he was not chosen to succeed Dr Maty in the Museum?

Your most affect. Friend

C. BLAGDEN.

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PHILADELPHIA

MARCH 2 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Conscious that I do not deserve the good character you give me for regularity in writing, your excusing my neglect has all the effect of a reproach. I ought undoubtedly have sent you a letter from New York last autumn; & accordingly had begun to write both to you & Mr. Barrington to beg your acceptance of the things I had collected in Rhode-Island; but vexation at having come too late to sail with the fleet, anxiety to follow it as soon as possible, and a most oppressive heat of near 90°, rendered me unfit for every employment I could possibly avoid; I hoped also to send more acceptable letters from the main army, by informing you what had been done; & could not possibly foresee that it would be above two months before I should find another opportunity of writing. With respect to the Kegs from Rhode-Island, I should deem myself extremely unfortunate if they occasioned the least misunderstanding between you & Mr. Barrington, more especially as I am convinced that they scarcely contain anything worthy your attention; it would be extremely easy to divide them by your taking six apiece; but as Mr. Barrington had previously acquainted me with his intention of sending all that he should receive to Mr. Lever, I thought it would best answer both his purpose and yours, that he should give up to you every thing that was nondescript, (if there be any such) on condition of keeping all the remainder, among which there might be many specimens not yet in Mr. Lever's Museum, & therefore interesting to him though not to you. As even your warmest patriots could scarcely hope that the last campaign would terminate as it did, I was not without expectation of returning home this year when I wrote to my Brother from Rhode-Island & New York, & therefore mentioned something about keeping the specimens till I should arrive to compare them with the rude descriptions I made whilst they were recent: but the dark prospect now before us has so effectually extinguished all my hopes, that I beg you will dispose of them to the dunghill or the preparation-bottle, (as they may deserve), with all convenient expedition.

Wilson's Pantheon Experiments must have made a fine holiday for the Town, but according to the best idea I can form of them from your account, could not be conclusive in any respect; and I am pretty confident that the honest Gentleman

you mention, who changed the Conductors on his Wife's house from points to knobs, did not by any means comprehend the real subject in debate. I cannot help suspecting there is as much fallacy in the wire experiment, as there seems to be sophistry in the explanation of it. All motions that are performed in less time than we have senses to perceive must appear to us equally instantaneous. Suppose Electricity to be conducted as swiftly as light is propagated, its passage through ten thousand feet of wire would appear to us as instantaneous as its passage through one foot, though it really took up ten thousand times more time, because even this would be too small for us to perceive. But if Electricity be conducted instantaneously in the strict sense of the word, in the same manner as the farther end of a stick is moved the instant one moves the nearer, every idea of degrees of velocity is incompatible with such a supposition. With respect to the fact itself. Suppose there were two equal quantities of gunpowder fixed at the end of two pieces of wire, one measuring a single foot, the other 1600 yards; if the other end of each of these pieces of wire was applied to the conductor at two different times, the conductor being equally charged both times, would the gunpowder at the end of the piece 1600 yards long be fired, but that at the end of the piece one foot long remain unburnt? It is obvious that if the 1600 yards of wire communicate with the conductor whilst it is loading, the experiment becomes fallacious from the addition of surface. By Mr. Cavendish's experiments it appears, that the production of a spark depends more upon the expansion, or velocity, of the electric matter, than on its quantity; whereas its power of firing gunpowder depends, perhaps, more upon the quantity than on the velocity. I am afraid the gout in the head is a soft name for a very dreadful disease. I wrote to you by Gov Wentworth who sailed from hence about a Month ago. The weather since that time has been perpetually changing snow, sleet & rain alternating with sharp frosts; but the thermometer has not been lower than 18°. We have sent out some foraging parties, who have met with no interruption; the light horse have also made some alerts, which have generally been successful, but we were a good deal disgraced in an attempt to take captain Lee, a noted rebel partizan. Why is Mr. Cavendish left out of the Royal Society's Council this year. After a very heavy fall of snow the thermometer at 7 in the morning on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March was at 7°. Was not the medal of the Royal Society strangely disposed of last October?

Your most obliged & affect. Friend CB.

PHILADELPHIA March 6<sup>th</sup>

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PHILADELPHIA  
MARCH 26, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

In the Henrietta which sailed about a fortnight ago I sent you a letter under the care of M<sup>r</sup> Croker Apothecary to the Hospital, who had the charge of the Invalids sent home in her. Our weather has been very changeable since that time. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March the Thermometer sunk to 7°. At the breaking up of that cold weather it became as remarkably hot: on the 12, 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> the Thermometer stood

for some hours above  $70^{\circ}$ , & at different times rose to  $72^{\circ}$ ,  $73^{\circ}$  & even above  $74^{\circ}$ . In the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> it was again down to 19. What an abominable climate: Some slight verdure begins to appear upon the earth, but I have seen no plant in flower. One Gentleman of the town has raised some forced asparagus. The roads are pretty dry, even dusty in many places, & Washington seems to be now at his weakest as the new levies are beginning to come in: but there do not seem to be any preparations making to attack him. The rebels will certainly collect a pretty numerous army this summer, chiefly by draughting the militia. Washington has given orders to lay waste the country eighteen miles round this City, from which, & many other steps taken both by him & the congress, I believe there will be the most determined opposition this campaign. I wish there was any prospect that it would prove the last.

L<sup>t</sup> Col. Murray has made here the Electrophor as he calls it, being a large cake of resinous composition. It certainly places in a remarkable point of view the property of such compositions to electrify other bodies without losing any, or much, of their own electricity. Has Wilson perfectly convinced you that Electricity becomes stronger by passing through a long circuit of wire; or has this paradox already met with the same fate as a similar one of Dommiceti's on the subject of steam, with which you are well acquainted? One of the most ingenious men belonging to this town, Kinnersley, is lately dead. Having entertained the same sentiments with respect to Great Britain as most other Americans, he left Philadelphia on the approach of the King's Troops, which was a great loss to the lectures on natural philosophy that have been given in the College here this winter by a Dr Smith, Provost of the college, who was likewise very zealous at the beginning of the rebellion, & preached the remarkable funeral sermon on General Montgomery. I hope you & Mr. Barrington have divided the things from Rhode-Island. There is no chance of making any collection here. L<sup>t</sup> Col. Murray desires to be remembered to you. The shad is just beginning to appear in the rivers here.

Your most affect. Friend,

CB.

Jos. BANKS, Esq<sup>r</sup>

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PHILADELPHIA Ap. 20, 1779.

DEAR SIR,

The February Packet arrived here on the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month; & on the 14<sup>th</sup> we received the Draughts of Lord North's two Bills, brought by the Andromeda Frigate. Almost every one here is of opinion that Congress will reject the terms; indeed they differ so little at bottom from the conciliatory motion made by the noble lord at the beginning of the war, that many of the same arguments will certainly be alleged as reasons for refuting them. Probably his Lordship was of the same opinion in this respect, but hoped that such an explicit declaration would undeceive the main body of the people, & clearly discover the ambitious & interested views of their leaders in Congress. I fear, however, that very different consequences will ensue from an appearance that we are shaken by the last unprosperous

campaign; and at all events, the paper currency of this country will be almost an unsurmountable difficulty to any negociation in the present state of affairs, unless it be previously settled with the American Plenipotentiaries at Paris.

During this month a pretty large species of Clupea, called a shad, runs up the Rivers Delaware & Schuylkill in prodigious numbers. It has already proved a very seasonable relief to the inhabitants of this town. However, lest our enemies should receive as much if not more advantage from this benefit of nature, we have passed a seine across the Schuylkill, to prevent the fish from getting up that river, upon the banks of which M<sup>r</sup> Washington's army is encamped. I will take some pains to learn how far this precaution is found effectual. It is nearly as good a fish as the Severn shad, & very much resembles it; but having lost that part of my System of Nature, I cannot say whether it be the true Alosa or not; however, I hope to send or bring you a specimen, & very much wish it may be the latter. The Spring here is sensibly more backward than at this time in England; and the NW winds, though extremely pleasant in summer and autumn, are now as piercing and disagreeable as our East winds in March. Forster is a memorable warning to mankind, that "Honesty is the best Policy".

Your most affect. Friend

CB.

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PHILADELPHIA

MAY 22, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

We are now in the midst of summer, after shivering with cold many days at the beginning of the month. On the 19th I saw the thermometer above 89°, in the shade, but exposed to that kind of reflected heat from which none of the streets in this City are free. Conclude from thence for July and August. It is certainly, in the midst of summer, the hottest spot in America. No green pease are yet brought to market; & they have but just begun to bring green gooseberries. Wheat is now in flower. The run of shad has considerably lessened, & will soon cease entirely, but Sturgeon begins to grow more plentiful. Upon the whole our markets mend, which is not a bad sign with respect to the disposition of the people in this neighbourhood toward us. But still this French Alliance seems to have banished every hope of peace. We begin to make preparations for acting; but I am afraid the excessive hot weather will now prevent any very decisive movements; & that after, voluntarily perhaps, losing two months of the most favourable weather that was ever known, the season will now oblige us to lose two or three months more. General Clinton has not yet stirred in any thing, probably he waits till General Howe is gone. I now experience from him none of that civility which he shewed me at New York last year; his situation is too much altered. The only person in America by whom I have been treated with the constant uniform civility, is the Gentleman that brings you this Letter, & whom, therefore, I have now the misfortune of losing, Mr. Strachey. One way or other I will try not to be long after him. Mr. Washington still continues at Valley Forge, from whence he

detached a body of near three thousand men toward this town three days ago. We sent out a superior force, which obliged them to retreat, but they suffered no loss worth mentioning. For this fortnight we have been in daily expectation of the Ardent, in which I hope to receive a letter from you. It is said that she was seen off the Capes of Delawar two days ago. Remember to all our friends, & expect more news in my next letter.

I have the Honour to be

Dear Sir,

Your most obliged & affect. Friend

CB.

{ It looks as if the  
{ Town would be evacuated. }

AT ANCHOR NEAR REEDY ISLAND  
IN THE RIVER DELA[WA]RE,  
JUN. 12, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

This instant I have received from Philadelphia your most friendly letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> of April together with all the things sent by Mr. Eden. I was here at anchor when the Trident passed, so that it has not been possible for me to see the Commissioners; & we expect every moment to get under way in order to proceed for New-York with the sick. The evacuation of Philadelphia was signified before my last letter, which was sent by the Andromeda under the care of my friend Mr. Strachey; but there was some reason to suspect that it was a piece of finesse. The Commissioners arrived at Philadelphia late the 6<sup>th</sup> or early the 7<sup>th</sup> of June; I have just received a letter from one of the best informed people there, dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, part of which I will transcribe by way of news. "L. Howe has " received an answer to his communication of the Acts: the substance of which " is, that Congress will treat as Independent States, consistent with the interests " of their constituents, & the *sacred faith* of Treaties. Another communication of " the Terms offered by G. Britain was sent out this morning, by Mr. ' Ferguson' " (one of the Commissaries of Prisoners) who I believe intended to go to the " Congress, but he was prevented, his packet taken & sent to them, & he is " returned. We must wait for an answer. I do not expect it will be different " from that to Lord Howe; for it is my opinion they will not treat on any other " terms, unless one or two events take place; either an account from France that " she cannot support them, or a defeat of Washington's army. As to the terms, " they are not absolute independence, but very little short of it, & more humiliat- " ing to the honour & dignity of G. Britain than perfect Independence itself." So far says my friend, which communicate to L. Mulgrave if you see him, for I can- not get time to write any thing more to him now; as my letters must be immedi- ately left aboard the Phœnix to wait for the Packet. That Packet, however, will probably bring you more decisive news. Thank Mr. Lloyd for his remembrance

of me in a very instructive letter which I hope to have the pleasure of answering on our arrival at New York. By L. Mulgrave's & my Brother's letters I begin to entertain hopes of being recalled to England; which I know you will forward; to remain in North America, or be sent to the West Indies, are surely the two greatest curses that can befall a man at this juncture.

I am dear Sir,

Your most obliged & affect. Friend

CB.

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NEW YORK, Jul. 20, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

About the 12<sup>th</sup> of June I wrote a letter for you in the River Delaware mentioning that all the things you were so kind as to send me by Mr. Eden had arrived safe. Soon afterwards I left that river & had a favourable passage to New-York, where the other Ships, & the Army arrived within a fortnight. In the affair of the 28<sup>th</sup> of June we lost upon the whole between three & four hundred men: & about the same number had deserted during our retreat before that day; afterwards very few deserted. Washington condemned Lee's conduct in that action so much, that the latter insisted upon a court-martial, which acquitted him. Our Commissioners have issued a Proclamation, relating their application to Congress & the manner in which it was treated, & appealing to the people of America; but it will all be fruitless without success in arms. Indeed our present situation is so ignominious, that the whole Continent must view us with contempt: almost all the British Force in America blockaded by sea, & invested by land. Mons D'Estaing's Squadron was seen near the Capes of Virginia the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> of July; it went into Delaware Bay, left some sick ashore there, & then proceeded to Sandy Hook, where it anchored on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The French force is so much prepared that we cannot presume to attack them; they effectually block up the harbour, & have taken several of our vessels; but the communication through the Sound is still open, & the Packet-Boats now go that way. It is matter of astonishment to every person here, that a month after the French Fleet had sailed from Toulon we had no Fleet out in pursuit of them, but lay all asleep at Spithead. Indeed we have not now any appearance that an English Fleet has sailed & our best hopes are derived from an advertisement in the rebel newspapers, signed by Franklin & Adams, & dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of May at Paris, giving notice to the people of America that eleven ships of the line were lying at St Helens bound for North America. Those same Newspapers give an account of some resolutions of Congress against receiving private letters from British Subjects, subjoining the Copy of a letter of this nature said to be written by Gov<sup>r</sup> Johnstone to M<sup>r</sup> Laurens, & sent along with the propositions of accommodation. As this letter makes a great noise here, I copy it off, though probably it will appear in the English Papers before you receive this,—  
“I beg to transfer to my Friend Dr Ferguson the private civilities which my  
“friends M<sup>r</sup> Manning and M<sup>r</sup> Oswald request in my behalf. He is a man of the  
“utmost probity, & of high esteem in the republic of letters. If you should fol-  
“low the example of Britain in the hour of her insolence, & send us back without

" an hearing, I shall hope from private friendship that I may be permitted to see  
" the country, & the worthy characters it has exhibited to the world, upon making  
" the request in any way you may point out. I am &c signed 'Geo. Johnstone,'  
" dated 'Philadelphia Jun 13 1778', & marked on the back '*private.*'" An answer  
to this letter by Laurens President of Congress (to whom it is addressed) appears  
in the June paper; it contains an absolute refusal to his coming into the country;  
with a declaration of his private opinion that Congress would not have treated  
upon any other terms than acknowledgment of their independency, or withdraw-  
ing the fleets & armies, though they had been driven "westward of yonder moun-  
tains", (the Aligany ridge) much less now they have so powerful an ally; & that  
in the present advanced state of the dispute it would be for the interest even of Great  
Britain to accede to their independence. This Transaction is published in such a  
formal manner by the rebels, that every person here seems persuaded of its truth;  
but some consider it as a political finesse, whilst others take up the affair much  
more seriously, as you may judge by the following pasquinade, which was found  
on the morning of 18th of this month posted up in a very public place of this City.  
" To be sold, the British Rights in America, Consisting, among other articles, of  
" The Thirteen Provinces in Rebellion, which Britain, in the hour of her Insolence,  
" attempted to subdue; the Reversion of the Governments of Quebec, Nova  
" Scotia, Newfoundland, East & West Florida, the Territories of the Hudson's  
" Bay Company, a respectable body of Troops, a considerable part of the Royal  
" Navy, and all the Loyal Subjects in America:—The British West Indies will be  
" included in the sale if agreeable. Apply to G. Johnstone Esq who is desirous  
" to conclude a private bargain. Conditions of the sale to be seen in the hands  
" of Henry Laurens Esq<sup>r</sup>, President of the Congress. To make it easy to the  
" Purchasers, a seat in Congress will be taken as part payment; the rest in Con-  
" tinental Currency. NB. Discount will be allowed for all the Loyalists who  
" have been murdered since the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1775". I waited upon M<sup>r</sup> Eden when  
he arrived in this City, & thanked him for his trouble in bringing me the parcel:  
he behaved very civilly, but did not ask me to come there again, nor have I since  
seen him. Gen. Clinton likewise never chooses to see me; a most extraordinary  
difference in his conduct since this time last year. When I arrived at New York  
Capt<sup>a</sup> Brown was out upon a cruise in the Swift Sloop of War, to which he had  
been appointed out of the Ardent, & I have not been able to see him; but about a  
week since I received the books sent me by the Ardent, which had been carried to  
Philadelphia, & brought back from thence. The Pamphlet you put up instead of  
Wilson was a very ill-written & contemptible piece relative to some incroachments  
upon the Physic Garden at Oxford. Many of Walis's remarks are very shrewd &  
strike home; but the weakness of some others spoil the whole Pamphlet, as, for  
instance, that upon Patten's *wretched* tooth-pick case. Has Forster yet published  
his appeal to the public, & raised subscriptions for his lawsuit, as he announces in  
his answer? Not knowing whether it be to you or to L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave that I am in-  
debted for Williams's Northern Governments, I can not tell whom to thank for a  
great deal of information, clouded however, & debased, by an unpardonable negli-  
gence of stile. About a fortnight since the weather was remarkably hot here; for  
two days following the Thermometer rose in the middle of the day above 94; & for

several days it was above 90 some hours each day. Since that time we have had the wind a good deal from some part of the eastern hemisphere, & the weather has been tolerably cool. I do not write to Lord Mulgrave by this packet, on a supposition that he is now sailing among the English Fleet in pursuit of the French; on every account I hope he will arrive here soon, as very fatal events may happen if the French Fleet continues much longer to command this Harbour. However, should his Lordship have remained at home, contrary to my expectations, be so kind as to communicate to him any part of this letter that you think is new. Both his Brothers are here well. Remember me to Dr Solander & all our Friends. Wilson's Pamphlet is so confused that I can scarcely comprehend it; but there seems to be nothing new, except the increase of the shock by adding the great length of wire to the conductor; but whether it be increased beyond the proportion of the addition of surface I cannot be sure from his account. You may easily imagine that the present state of our affairs has not made America *more* agreeable than it was. Nothing supports me but the hope of getting away soon.

Your most affect Frnd.

NEW YORK SEP 12, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

- In a former letter I mentioned to you that the specimens I sent home from Rhode-Island are numbered by knots. Each single knot stands for one, two knots close together stand for ten: a loop at the end of the string stands for an hundred. Where I got male & female the knotted string was tied to the right leg of the former & to the left of the latter. Forty-three, for example would be thus

expressed



that is, by four pair of knots on one end of the string,

the two of each pair close to one another, & by three single knots on the other end of the string. I now send you a list of the specimens, with their numbers, names and a few circumstances respecting the natural history of some: omitting entirely the descriptions, which I am not in a state to draw out intelligibly: To show the time of their appearance I have commonly annexed the day when I procured the specimen, & I express myself always as a resident in Rhode-Island.

- Nº 1 (A Bird) is the common Sparrow, a pretty good singing-bird. Feb. 18
- 1 (A Fish) is the common Flounder here, tastes nearly like the English.
- 1 (A Frog) Called the Frog here, but crawls, does not leap. *Rana Maxima* Ap. 23<sup>d</sup>
- Nº 2 (A Bird) A species of Diver; the breast of a most beautiful glossy white when it was shot: swam in company with two others: no particular name here but Loon. Feb. 18
- 2 (A Fish) An imperfect specimen of a species of Ray, not known here commonly. Mar. 10

Nº 3 (A Bird) Called by some here the Sparrow-Hawk, by others the Pidgeon-Hawk: shot near the Town, & a few days before another about the same place more resembling the *Falco columbarius* of Linnaeus as this resembles his *Falco Sparvarius*. Forster's figure (the Frontispiece to his North-American Animals) is a mixture of the two. Hence I suspect the *Falco sparvarius* and *Falco columbarius* to be really the same birds, varying by sex, age or accident. Feb. 20

Nº 4. (A Bird) Called here the yellow-Bird & kept in cages for its fine singing. Feb. 24 The colours of this bird vary much; in summer the Wings of deeper black & back fine yellow, tho' now greenish

Nº 5. (A Bird) The Blue-Bird. The male of this is of a most beautiful glossy deep blue in summer, the females are at all times less finely coloured. Mar. 15.

Nº 5. (A Fish) Perch from a fresh-water Pond into which a little sea water runs now & then. One of the most delicious fish in America. Mar. 17

March the 9<sup>th</sup> I put up some Clams, of two different genera, not not [sic] frequently distinguished at Rhode-Island, but called at New-York & to the Southward Clams, & Many-Noses or Pipers; the smallest sort going by these two last names, & being much in request as bait for fishing. Both sorts are eaten by the poor in large quantities, and are esteemed to make good soop. No mark was put upon them, & I am not quite sure that they were sent.

Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> I put up the common patellas that adheres to the rocks of Rhode-Island: & a specimen of Sponge found on the Beach, all without any mark.

Nº 6 (A Bird) Called here Red-winged Blackbird, *Oriolus phœniceus* of Linnaeus. This properly means the male, who first appeared here the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of March: in a fortnight or three weeks afterwards came the females, & not one before. They are not black with a red shoulder to the wing, like the male, but a mottled of a dark brown, & a dirty yellowish white. The males seem to come before to look out for breeding places, as they pair immediately upon the arrival of the females. The spot upon the Shoulder of the wings in the male varies considerably, being sometimes of a deep scarlet & sometimes of a pale orange colour.

Nº 6 (A Fish) The common Eel.

Nº 7 (A Bird) The well-known Robin of this country, Linnaeus's *Turpus Migratorius*. They arrive here about the middle of March, & in such quantities & so tame, that a dozen could be shot in an hour within two miles of the town. However it was a fortnight after their arrival they begin to pair, & then are not to be seen in such quantities. By the end of May, however, they appear again very frequent, & toward the end of June, when the young ones are fledged, every orchard & garden is covered with them, & any quantity may be shot. They taste much like our English Thrushes. At first coming they are rather lean, but soon become very fat.

N<sup>o</sup> 7 (A Fish) The common Herring, called at Rhode-Island, Alewife, I believe the same as that caught in the fresh water Rivers of this country. Delaware & Schuylkill for instance, & called simply Herring. Those of Rhode-Island were caught in the same Pond as the Perch, see No. 5. They are very indifferent fish to eat, nothing like the Herrings of our Seas.

N<sup>o</sup> 8 (A Bird) The yellow Woodpecker, *Picus auratus* Linnæus. Mar. 19.

N<sup>o</sup> 9 (A Bird) The Hildee, so called from a fancied resemblance of its cry to that word. A *Charadrius*? Reckoned among the Plovers on Long-Island where they are in small Flocks, coarse eating.

March 24

N<sup>o</sup> 10 (A Bird) The Snipe, living in the same wet places, & flying up in the same manner as ours, but not so good to eat. Mar. 24

N<sup>o</sup> 12 (A Bird) The Cock-Wamp, a remarkable & beautiful species of *Anas*; the Hen Wamp, almost totally different from the other, but likewise very beautiful (string tied to left leg); & a young Wamp, said to be a Cock, but in plumage much more like the Hen. These three Birds have scarcely anything in common but the singular *Cera*, which somewhat answers to Linnæus's character of the *Cera* of the Eider Duck. This Bird is called to the eastward the Isly Shore Duck, & is not very scarce. The delicate green about the occiput of the male I fear will be injured by the spirits. Cock Mar. 25 Hen & young one shot Ap. 9.—Pretty good to eat.

N<sup>o</sup> 12. (A Bird) Whitling Diver. Another coarse species of Sea Wild-duck, very common. Mar. 25.

N<sup>o</sup> 13 (A Bird) Red-billed Coot. (All the birds called coots at Rhode-Island are *Anates* by a corruption from colour). The Male of this species has the epidermis on the base of the upper mandible of an orange colour; the female has scarcely anything of this, & differs in some other respects of colour from the male. There is a specimen of both, observing the distinction of right & left leg, coarse eating. Mar. 25.

N<sup>o</sup> 14 (A Bird) Beach-Bird, or Snipe Beach-Bird, to distinguish it from the following, but I found no one who made the distinction unless I began to converse about the difference. Mar. 25.

N<sup>o</sup> 15 (A Bird) Beach-Bird, species of *Charadrius*? This species and the former are found in considerable flocks upon the sandy beaches opening to the Sea, sometimes separate & sometimes mixed, so that upon shooting into a flock of beach-birds, which is the common name of both species, one often kills as many scolopaces as *charadrii*. The *charadrii* have a remarkably shrill plover note, & are a pretty light-coloured neat bird. Neither species is delicate to eat. They run very fast; (Shot Mar. 25) but I believe they frequent the beaches all winter.

N<sup>o</sup> 16 (A Bird) Marsh-Quail in Rhode-Island, Meadow-Lark in other parts of America; *Alauda magna* of Linnæus, but certainly very different from other Larks, & anomalous with respect to its genus. It inhabits the moister meadows, & is a delicate bird to eat. Ap. 1.

April the 5 was shot the *Colymbus glacialis*, called here Great Loon.  
 № 17. (A Bird) Bald-pated Coot, by which name it is distinguished from № 13, on account of the light spot on the occiput. This was said to be the female, therefore the string is tied to its left leg. Coarse eating. Ap. 3.

№ 18 (A Bird) The *Anas glacialis*, I believe, called here Old Wife. Put up the male & female. Coarse eating. Ap. 3.

№ 19 (A Bird) The Sheldrake, called in other places likewise a Saw-bill, from its beak, which seems to place it between the *Anates* & *Mergi*. It is very plenty, & commonly strong, but now & then rather delicate to eat. These three last numbers are entirely sea birds, & the way of shooting them at Rhode-Island is to take post among some rocks which project into the sea at the SE end of the Island, called Sachawest Point, & wait there till the birds fly by. These sea birds commonly skimming the shore, & often intending to go up the passage by the eastern side of Rhode-Island, very frequently come close to the rocky point, & are easily shot. Ap. 3.

April the 8th I saw a beautiful small species of wood-pecker, which I took to be the *Picus hirundo* of Linnæus.

№ 22. (A Bird) The *Alea Torda*, called here Parrot-Bill, & Noddy, but most commonly the Murr, I imagine from its harsh jarring cry. It was shot at Sachawest in the manner described № 19, & is a rare bird here. I put up only its skin. Ap. 10

№ 23 (A Bird) Called here the Hen Old Wife, but I believe it to be a different species, by its wanting the long feathers of the tail, and that the bird with the string № 18 tied to its left leg is the real female old-wife. Ap. 8.

№ 24 (A Bird) The Dipper, a very common bird & pretty good to eat. *Anas rustica?* Ap. 8. This & the old-wife are both remarked for their extreme quickness in diving when any attempt is made to shoot them.

№ 25. (A Bird) *Colymbus auritus?* of Linnæus. All these birds are here called Loons. This is remarkable for its blood-red iris, & a singular lorum of the same colour extending from the eye upon the upper mandible. Ap. 8.

№ 26 (A Bird) Another Loon, the *Colymbus Immer* Put up its skin Ap. 13 Weighed three pounds.

№ 27 (A Bird) The Brant, a much admired bird, sometimes extremely delicate to eat, but often strong. In Spring, with a southerly wind, prodigious flocks pass close to Sachawest point, where great numbers of them are shot. Tongue remarkably spinous. *Anas Bernicla* of Linnæus. Put up its skin Ap. 13. Weighs 4 lb

№ 28 (A Bird) Said to be the Male of the Bald-pated Coot; The tuberosity of the upper mandible, & certain whitish spots about the head, are the characters of this species.

Nº 29 (A Bird) The White-Wing; seems to be the *Anas funa* of Linnaeus. Bears a great resemblance to the bald-pated Coot, but they are distinguished from one another by the sides of the upper mandible, & by the Whitish spots about the head, as may be seen by comparing the specimens. Weighed near lb 4 Put up its skin Ap 13\*

Nº 30 (A Bird) The famous *Gracula Quiscalis*, called here Crow Black-bird. At this time of the year they are employed in devouring the grubs among the roots of grass. April.

Nº 31 (A Bird) The Yellow-bird, I am not sure but the same as Nº 4. However there are really two species of yellow Birds; one smaller, of a deeper yellow, & more dark brown about the wings, the other larger species more like a canary bird in form & colour, with scarcely any brown on the wing, and a better singing-bird Ap. 15

Nº 32 (A Bird) A most elegant species of wood-pecker, but not distinguished by any particular name. Perhaps only male of the *Picus hirundo*, see observation after N 19.—Ap 17.

Nº 33 (A Bird) The Cormorant; *Pelecanus Graculus*. Harbour in large quantities on a rock about 2 miles from Sachawest Point, thence called Cormorant Rock. There are said to be two species of them, probably the two in Linnaeus. Put up skins of male & female Ap. 22.

Nº 34 (A Bird) Ground Sparrow, so called from building its nest upon the ground. Known by its smallness compared with the common sparrow Nº 1, & by the ferruginous spot on the Vertex of the head. Chirps, cannot sing. Ap. 23.

Nº 35 (A Bird) The common Swallow (*Hirundo rustica?*) just come to be frequent. Two exterior Rectrices very long Ap. 23

Nº 36 (A Bird) Called likewise Swallow. Wants the long Rectrices. Somewhat answers to characters of *Hirundo urbica*, but I rather suspect it to be the female of the foregoing; they are always together & Both rest frequently upon trees. Ap. 23.

Nº 37 (A Bird) Elegant species of *Tringa?* called here Pewit from its cry, as the Lapwing in England.

Nº 38 (A Fish) The Plaice. A good Fish. Ap. 25.

Nº 39 (A Fish) The Tom-Cod, reckoned here nearly as good as the common Cod, but that is greatly inferior to the English. The Tom-Cod is caught by angling at the wharfs.

Nº 40 (A Bird) The Grass-Plover, a species of *Scolopax*, & reckoned one of the delicate sorts of Plover here, but they are not very fine. Just now migrated to this Island. They come in great numbers, & are very tame at first, but grow extremely shy & hard to shoot in a few days. Ap. 29.

\* I believe that a mistake was made in putting up some of these birds whose numbers are between 20 & 30, by tying only one double knot instead of two double knots, for which an addition of *ten* must be made to the number shewn by the string.

Nº 41 (A Fish) A species of Blenny, not common, called here a Cat-fish, though the fish commonly known by that name in America is a silurus. Ap. 29

Nº 42 (A Bird) The female of the *Oriolus phœniceus*, I imagine.

Nº 43 (A Bird) The Woodcock, one specimen full-grown, the other young. When this was shot, I saw another young one just hatched, & at this time of the year there are woodcock's nests in the woods of most of the Islands round Rhode Island. The whole figure of this bird is very singular, particularly from the extreme flatness of the side of the head, & the position of the full eye so far back. May 6.

Nº 44 (A Fish) Called here Gurnard, but seems to be a species of *Cottus*.

Nº 45 (A Fish) Called Minow. The ponds near the sea swarm with them, & they seem to be a principal part of the food of the smaller Gulls which frequent the coast. May 7.

In the Ponds here the *Atherina Menidia* is frequently found, & known by the name of Silver-fish. I heard of some being caught about this time, but could get none.

Nº 46 (A Bird) The black-breasted Plover, one of the best species but still not very delicate. A *Tringa*? Breast of male much blacker than that of female. Put up both sexes. Lately migrated to the Island; in flocks. May 9.

Nº 47 (A Bird) The Tell-tale Plover, from betraying itself by its cry. Just migrated to the Island. A very indifferent bird to eat. Species of *Scolopax*. Put up Cock & Hen. May 11

Nº 48 (A Bird) The Ox-eye. A species of *Scolopax* which now begins to come in large flocks to the ponds near the beach May 11

Nº 49 (A Bird) The ring-necked Plover, sometimes like N 48, confounded under the general name of beach-bird, because they frequent the beaches at this time of the year, though they do not collect their food below highwater mark like the species N 14 & N 19. They are very bad to eat. May 11<sup>th</sup>

Were I to go on with these descriptions my letter would become too bulky. Indeed I should not have drawn it out to the present length, if Mr. Eden had not kindly undertaken to put it in his packet. I cannot conclude, however, without pointing out to you what appeared to me the most singular bird I got. It is Nº 71, & known here by the name of Scapog-Bird, though extremely rare. The beak differs extremely from any generic description, & when closed the extremity of it becomes a perpendicular wedge. In other respects it somewhat resembles the *Ardea fusea*, & it partakes of the mild manners of the heron tribe.— When I reflect on [the] excellent opportunities of improvement in natural history which I could co[ntinue] at Rhode-Island, the unnecessary, & perhaps malicious applic[ation] which brought me from thence provokes my indignation. Since that time it has been totally out of my power to collect any thing.— Our weather now begins to grow cold. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month the Thermometer was down to 50°

at sunrise. The average of the Barometer still appears to me remarkably high: its variations are very small, though it feels every change of wind, but scarcely affords more assistance than the weathercock in foretelling rain. There is so little chance of finding Lord Mulgrave in England that I shall not write to him as yet. Gen. Gray has just done some mischief to a nest of rebel Privateers about 30 miles to the eastward of Rhode-Island. My next will continue the list of Specimens.

This page is reserved for the little news I can tell you. Our Fleet either through the fiddle-faddle precisioness or designed backwardness which have prevailed in all our movements, has failed in the attempt to intercept D'Estaing's Squadron on their way to Boston. The French, avowedly as much injured by the gale as we, kept the sea, & pushed on whilst our Fleet was here refitting. Numerous parties of Indians & Whites, all of whom seem to have some connexion with Col. Butler, commit great devastations on the Frontiers. Congress, however, do not relax, as you will see by their late resolves. They pretend to great merit in refusing Gov. Johnston's attempts to bribe; & have thrown D Berkenhout (a man whose history you must know) into prison, as an emissary from him. The people in power all give out that New-York is to be kept this winter; & several circumstances concur to shew that it is intended, unless they are meant as a blind. An expedition seems preparing, but whether to the W. Indies, as was intended in the summer, or up the North River, as some imagine, nothing enables me to judge. The principal people of the army have no cordiality; they are disgusted with Clinton's favourites. Washington insults us on the White Plains with scarcely 10,000 men. I have spoken with Mr. Eden but twice since his arrival, but I dine with him tomorrow, & he desires to be recommended to you. Our commissioners act toward the rebels with great Temper, &, we should say in any other state of affairs, with degrading condescension. They seem to entertain hopes that the people will at length compel the Congress to negotiate, without considering perhaps sufficiently the strong Despotism established by these demagogues, who have contrived to put all the arms of the country into the hands of their friends. The principal officers of the rebel army indeed are quarreling, but that is only a proof how much they now despise us. Danger wo<sup>d</sup> reunite them.

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MY DEAR FRIEND,

In a Letter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, & sent by Mr. Eden in his packet put aboard the Eagle, I gave you a list of collection sent from Rhode-Island, as far as the 49<sup>th</sup> number. That list I shall now continue in the same manner.

N<sup>o</sup> 50 (A bird) The King-bird, noted for its boldness in attacking other birds: May 12 its upper mandible remarkably depressed & some feathers of a singular colour, nearly resembling that of red precipitate mercury, just on the crown of the head, commonly so covered by the other feathers as scarcely to be seen without displacing them.

Nº 51 (A bird) The Quongquéedle of Rhode-Island, Bob of Lincoln in New England, seems to be the *Emberiza oryzivora*. Male & female differ from one another extremely, I am afraid that the latter is not sent. She has not the remarkable buff coloured back of the male, but is all over a mixture of brown & dull white. The males appear some time before the females,—which then appear all of a sudden & pair immediately. At this time the male is a very fine singing bird; but after the young are hatched, he seldom sings, confining his cry to a flat disagreeable chirp. In this country they are not remarkably delicate to eat, though as good as most small birds. May 13.

Nº 52 (A bird) The Goldfinch of America, a bird of very showy colours, though, I think, not equal in elegance to its European namesake. The orange belly is very striking. May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Nº 53 (A bird) Some of the people called this the Chip-bird, but most applied that name to Nº 54. Being small birds, & little noticed, they are probably confounded together. May 13.

Nº 54 (A bird) The common Chipbird, frequenting the gardens April 23<sup>d</sup>

Nº 55 (A bird) Rock-Plover, confounded also under the comprehensive name of beach-bird. It frequent[s] the rocky parts of the sea coast & the grassy fields near it. I suspect there is some mistake in the numbering this specimen, or that the common Ox-eye is put up instead of it. May 13.

Nº 56 (A bird) Somewhat like the Martin, but I believe it to be the female of the common Swallow. April 23.

Nº 57 (A bird) The Chewéet, male & female with the numbering string tied to right & left leg. Frequent in gardens. May 13 & 16.

Nº 58 (A bird) The Thrasher or Thrush, *Turdus rufus*, pretty common at this time with the Robins Nº 7, which bird is remarkable in taste. May 13.

Nº 59 (A Fish) Species of *Sepia* found on the beach: I believe it is called here a Squid. May 14.

Nº 60 (A Fish) The Scapóg-fish, very much like the most celebrated fish in New York, known by the name of Sheep's Head, from a supposed resemblance of its teeth to those of that Animal. The Sheep's head is always much larger than the Scapóg-fish, but I believe that is all the difference. Both are caught about Rhode-Island, but the Scapóg-fish not very frequently, & the Sheep's Head very rarely. In Philadelphia the sheep's head used to be so much esteemed that it was brought 50 or 60 miles over land, by night from Egg Harbour where it was caught in machines constructed for that purpose, where they all hung freely exposed to the air without touching one another. For the New-York market they are brought at present from the southern coast of Long-Island, but always gutted, I suppose because the entrails would spoil remarkably soon. Though one of the best fish here, it would not be esteemed in England.

Nº 61 (A bird) The yellow-legged Plover, so called from the colour of its legs & feet, a species of scolopax, very common at this season, but not all delicate to eat. May 15.

62 (A bird) The red-legged Plover, a bird somewhat anomalous with respect to its genus, the beak not resembling that of any other of the plovers I saw. It flies in flocks at this season, & is coarse eating. May 15.

63 (A bird) The Mosquito Gull, a species of *sperna*, perhaps the *nigra*, very frequent about the ponds near the beaches, preying upon the small *Cyprinus* Nº 45. May 15

64 (A bird) The Humming-Bird, shot in the garden of the house where I lived in the skirts of the town. Weighed 56 grains. May 15

46 (A bird) The black-breasted Plover, one of the most delicate to eat that I found here. They first appeared upon the Island several weeks before. I put up both the cock & the hen. The former has much more strongly than the latter that character of black feathers upon the breast which gives name to the species. May 16

66 (A bird) The Grasshopper Gull, *Larus canus*? May 16

65 (A bird) A species of Plover for which I could learn no particular name. May 16

67 (A bird) The Rock-Plover, at least the bird most universally known by that appellation; see Nº 55, which it resembles very much. Flies about from rock to rock on the sea coast, & often goes out of sight over the sea away from land. May 16. It is sometimes called the Whale-Bird; & seems very anomalous in its generic characters.

68 (A bird) The skin of the common wild goose here, shot upon the rocks near the beach; seems to be the *Anas canadensis*. May 16<sup>th</sup>

69 (A bird) The Night-Hawk, *Caprimulgus Americanus* flies about in the dusk catching insects with its frightful rectus. The name of goatsucker is not known here. It is a very common bird. May 16 see Nº 103

Nº 70 (A bird) The Wren, found about shrubs in gardens May 16.

71 (A bird) The Scapog-Bird, of which I gave you an account in my last letter.

72 (A bird) The Cat-Bird, nearly allied to the King-bird Nº 50, which also is frequently called Cat-Bird. May 17.

73 (A bird) The Fool-Plover, so called from its standing still whilst a person openly approaches within gunshot. May 20.

74 (A tortoise) One variety of the Ground-Turtle. May 20

75 (A bird) The Shike-poke, an elegant species of *Ardea* frequenting trees near moist places. It is of a mild taste, & much admired by some. May 22.

76 (A bird) The Mackarel Gull, *Sterna Hirundo*, remarked for following the shoals of mackarel which appear upon the coast about this time. May 24.

77 (A bird) A Gull for which I could not learn any name. May 24.

78 (A fish) The Sucking Fish; taken off a Mackarel to which it was found adhering, which was thought here remarkable, as it is said to fix itself on no other kind of fish but the sharks. It is very different from that called a sucking fish at Philadelphia, which is no petromyzon, but I believe a kind of perch. May 29.

79 (A bird) Scarcely known upon this Island, on account of its rare appearance but called by some people the Port Royal Bird, & said to be common to the southward. It is evidently allied to the King & Cat Birds. May 29.

80 (A bird) The red-headed Woodpecker. June 1.

81 (A fish) June 6 The common Mackarel, now in prodigious shoals upon the coast, so that a man may catch 700 a day. Most of those taken are salted up for the Winter.

82 (A bird) The common Crow of this country; Back & belly nearly of the same hue.

Nº 83) Birds) 84) Several people in Rhode-Island agreed that these two birds were cock & hen of the same species, under the name of male and female bee-birds; others again called the supposed male bee-birds Nº 83 a dippdapper, but knew no name for Nº 84. Jun 7.

85 (A fish) The Horse Mackarel, which appears in shoals upon this coast, just as the common Mackarel are about to leave it. They are fully as good a fish to eat, & sometimes are found of 20 pounds weight. They do not seem to be of the Scomber genus, but rather of the chain from sparus to perca inclusively, which can difficultly be broke into genera. Continue upon the coast about six weeks. Jun. 12.

Nº 86 (A fish) The Succateég, called at New-York Wake-Fish, & Sea Trout. It was our commonest fish at Five-Fathoms-Hole near Charles town South Carolina. It is not a delicate fish, & therefore bears a very low price at the New-York Market, where it is also pretty common. Jun 12

Nº 87 (A bird) The American Cuckoo.—Jun. 15.

Nº 88 (A fish) The famous Totog of Rhode-Island, the same, I believe, as the black fish of New-York, & as one sort at least of the blackfish caught off Charlestown S. Carolina. Rhode-Island is nearly the extent of its progress to the Northward, for it is said never to be caught at Boston, & probably seldom passes Cape Cod: At the same time it is remarkable that this fish is larger, firmer & much more delicate at Rhode-Island than in other part of America, & even rather more common. It would be thought very good in Europe, but is certainly surpassed by four or five of our best sorts of fish. In winter these, & most others of the Rhode-Island fish keep too far from the coast to be easily caught, but on the approach of spring they gradually come nearer, & toward the latter end of May are taken by angling from the Rocks. Common weight of fine fish about lb4: (said to arrive sometimes at 10 or 12 pounds. It feeds very much on the common coralline of the rocks:

Nº 89 (A fish) The Cachóset, a very common fish caught by angling near the rocks, & very indifferent to eat. They vary in colour very much, & some of them have an hue of orange which is really beautiful. Come with the Totóg.

Nº 90 (A bird) A species of Tree Heron, nearly allied to the Shike-poke Nº 75, said to be very rare here, & distinguished by no particular name, but common to the southward. Both species have a remarkable mossy down upon the breast, & the pectinated talons. Jun. 15.

Nº 91 (A bird) The Chimney-Swallow, Hirundo Pelasgia, more common in the inland parts than near the sea-coast, & remarkable for frequenting in immense flocks the chimnies & even rooms of uninhabited houses. Jun 15.

Nº 92 (A bird) A very rare bird here, scarcely known to any person by sight, & to one by name. It seems to be the Fulica Chloropus, &, if so, is common to the southward.

Nº 93 (A bird) The common Quail, called in Rhode-Island Whistling Quail to distinguish it from the absurd name of Marsh Quail which they give to the Alauda Mægna, Nº 16. It is a very delicate bird, but not high flavoured. These quails do not fly in large bevies, but have nearly the other habits of our partridges. Found all the year.

Nº 94 (A bird) What seems to be the Hen of the Oriolus phœniceus Nº 6.

Nº 95 (A fish) The blue-fish, called at New York Sea Bass, to distinguish it from the Rock-Bass, which last is the fish called Bass by Dr Garden as quoted by Linnaeus. The blue fish is sometimes pretty blue but most commonly rather ink coloured. It is a very firm sweet fish, but with no particular flavour, sensibly better at New-York than at Rhode Island.

About this time some flights of pigeons came over the Island, but the great flocks are not found nearer the sea than Providence. Those I saw did not agree very well with the characters of the Columba migratoria, but still it could be no other species. It had nothing of a blood colour about the eye, but the palpebra was of a lead-colour.

Nº 96 (A bird) The Quawk, so called from its cry, a species of tree heron. It is eaten, & tastes pretty well. Jun. 19.

Nº 97 (A bird) The Bank Swallow, a name describing its mode of life. Jun 19.

Nº 98 (A fish) A species of small crab, remarkable for being the best bait for the fine fish here named Totóg. Nº 88.

Nº 99 (A fish) One sort of Sardines. Jun 25

Nº 100 (A tortoise) Another species or variety of the Ground Turtle Nº 74.

Nº 101 (A bird) The smaller sort of yellow bird. See Nº 4.— June 26

Nº 102 (A fish) The Gadus Pallachius, called here also Pollack.

July the 2<sup>d</sup> I shot a Mosquito Gull Nº 63 with the Minow Nº 45 in its mouth, which it was taking to the young, then hid in the sand near the beach, as was probable from its own motions & those of its mate, confirmed by the opinion of people frequenting the shore.

Nº 103 (A bird) The Whipperwill, so called from its cry being supposed to resemble that word. It is evidently a species of *Caprimulgus*, said to differ from the night-hawk Nº 69, by not building among rocks, but in trees; however I should suspect that both build in trees by their pectinated unguis. The whipperwill is well known all over the northern part of America & every one agrees in the distinctness with which it utters that word, frequently to annoyance of the neighborhood during most part of the night; whereas the night hawk seldom cries, & then utters nothing but a screaming sound. The size & colours of the two are evidently different; but whether they are really two species, or only the different sexes, I never could obtain satisfactory information. Jul 3.

Nº 104 (A bird) The black snipe, an imperfect specimen. Its colour was not black, but mottled brown, with dull red hue Jul 4

Nº 105 (A bird) The wild Pidgeon, see remark after Nº 95. As this specimen was imperfect in the tail, I put it up with the perfect tail of another. Jul. 7.

July the 9<sup>th</sup> I shot the cock & hen gold-finches, & remarked that their legs & feet were of a glossy blue colour.

Nº 106 (A fish) Sometimes called Flame, sometimes Flounder, & tastes much like the European Flounder. The lateral line makes a remarkable curvature just behind the pectoral fins. Jul 5.

Nº 107 (A bird) Called by the general name of Gull here, without any specific distinction; seems to be the *Sterna nigra*. Jul 14

Nº 108 (A bird) The Kingfisher July 14.

Nº 109 (A fish) The Hake, which seems to be a species of Blenny, though the fish called in England by that name is a *Gadus* — Jul. 16.

Nº 110 (A fish) A species of *Clupea*, not well known here, called by one Boy a Ten pounder. Jul. 20

Nº 111 (A bird) This bird was shot on the southern beaches of Long Island, before I went to Rhode-Island, & given me under the name of Merlin.

Nº 112 (A quadruped) The Rabbit, of which I wrote you some account from Rhode-Island, but inaccurate with respect to its toes.

Besides these numbered specimens there are several others which were put up in Rhode-Island before I undertook the numbering, particularly a species of wild-duck called the Broad-bill, mottled somewhat like guinea hen, & the most delicate wildduck I have tasted in the country. There are also several loose specimens which I collected in New-York before we were detached to Rhode-Island. You will likewise find a few species with shot tied to them inclosed in a little bag: these were all collected in Carolina, & are 22 in number, of which I will now add the list, each shot telling as one.

Nº 1. A fish called the Providence Whiting, pretty good.

Nº 2. } Rabbit-Fish, which I believe is a general name given to all such fleshy

Nº 3. } Tetrodons, from the teeth. eatable.

Nº 4. The Toad-Fish, viewed with abhorrence & never eaten.

Nº 5. The Sailor's Choice, an indifferent fish to eat.

Nº 6. A Sepia, said not to be good to eat.  
 Nº 7. A Gurnard.  
 Nº 8. Either the Sailor's Choice Nº 5, or the Porgree.  
 Nº 9. Varieties of Catfish, Silures.  
 Nº 10. (A fish) The Sea-Trout, esteemed here a very good fish, though held cheap to the northward. See Nº of the Rhode-Island Catalogue.  
 Nº 11. The fish called an Old Wife by our Pilot.  
 Nº 12. Head & Tail of a Rattle Snake killed at Cape Fear River.  
 Nº 13. The Skipjack, a pretty good fish.  
 Nº 14. A fish of which I did not learn the name.  
 Nº 15. A fish which I believe some people call a Crocus.  
 Nº 16. Another of the fish called Old Wife.  
 Nº 17. Supposed to be the same as Nº 5.  
 Nº 18. A fish called Whiting at Cape Fear River, perhaps the same as Nº 15.  
 Nº 19. The Whiting, very plenty off Charlestown & at Cape Fear River.  
 Nº 20. A fish suspected to be the Skipjack Nº 13.  
 Nº 21. The Blackfish, much the most delicious fish here; I suppose it is the same as Nº 88 of the Rhode Island Catalogue.  
 Nº 22. Small fish caught near the Charlestown Lighthouse.  
 Besides those here enumerated, there are several loose specimens picked up whilst I was off the coast of the Carolinas, which bad health prevented me from examining at all. Indeed, during my whole stay in America, I have never been so situated as to prosecute natural history to advantage but in Rhode-Island; & I was dragged from thence almost as soon as I had got into the train. I described almost all the specimens of the list, & several others, in such a manner that I never was at a loss for distinguishing the species when it was offered to me again, though the descriptions are infinitely too tedious, too untechnical, & embracing too many frivolous circumstances, for me to think of transcribing them. I feel some anxiety to learn in what condition the specimens [arrive], & particularly whether the wrapping them up in [line]n conduces much to their preservation.

Major Knight who was Gen. Howe's Aid-de-Camp does me Honour of taking this for you.

Your affectionate

C. BLAGDEN.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

NEW-YORK, OCT. 15, 1778.

This Letter will be brought to you by Mr Galloway, the late Superintendent General of Philadelphia, a Gentleman for whose acquaintance I am sure you will thank me, if you have transferred to political matters the least spark of that ardour for knowledge which has so distinguished you in the paths of science. Mr Galloway was possessed of one of the first estates, & most decisive influence, in the Province of Pennsylvania, all of which are now lost, for the present at least, by his attachment to us.

The Army here is now breaking up, & no more men seem likely to be left than

are necessary as a garrison to the place. In this situation it mortifies me not a little to be kept in this country an unnecessary, superfluous Physician, as I am perfectly convinced that one Physician would be fully equal to all the Duty here this winter, if so great a number of men leave as is expected.

In my Lord Howe's Ship, the Eagle, I sent you the first half of my catalogue of the Specimens sent from Rhode-Island; the other half is sent with this fleet, under the care of Major Knight, formerly Aid-de-Camp to Sir W<sup>m</sup> Howe, who goes in one of the baggage Ships of the 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Very little occurs to me now in the line of natural history. About the beginning of this month the common quail of Rhode-Island (N<sup>o</sup> 93 of the Catalogue), called here & to the southward a partridge, came upon this island in great flocks, so as to fly into the country houses, & even into the Gardens in town. They have now almost disappeared, except a certain proportion which stay all the winter, either from having been bred here, or because they do not choose to fly any farther, as most of the flocks seemed to come down the North River with a southerly breeze. Within this week the Robins, *turdus migratorius*, have come hither in prodigious numbers, very exactly at the same time as in the autumn of 1776. They were preceded two or three days by very large flocks of the *Alauda magna*, or meadow Lark, which came likewise from the northward. We have already felt some sharp days: on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month hoar frost was seen in the country very early, & here I found the thermometer at 37° nearly half an hour after the sun had risen.

T[he Com]missioners meet with no success, but [on] the contrary are treated with great rudeness, & the [Com]mander in Chief with still greater, by demagogues of America. They are preparing to go home, as you will see by their last manifesto. Whenever I see Mr Eden he is very civil, but we seldom meet.

Be so kind as to remember me most affectionately to Dr Solander.

Your most obliged and affect. Friend

C. B.

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NEW-YORK OCT<sup>R</sup> 20, 1778

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Inclosed in Mr Eden's Packet, which, I believe, went in Lord Howe's Ship, the Eagle, I transmitted to you the first part of a catalogue of the specimens sent from Rhode-Island; the second part goes in the fleet just now sailing, under the care of Major Knight, formerly Aid-de-Camp to Sir W<sup>m</sup> Howe, who is embarked aboard one of the baggage ships of the 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment just draughted. Hearing that you were engaged in the militia, & thence supposing you began to take an interest in political matters, I hoped to do you an acceptable service, by introducing to your acquaintance the late Superintendent General of Philadelphia, Mr Galloway, who is able to give you better information of affairs here, than, perhaps, any person that has left the Continent. He embarked only two days ago, & therefore I imagine this letter will reach you sooner than that which I sent you by him. The Letter brought by Mr Eden, dated in April, is the last I received from you.

By Mr Galloway I sent you the little news of this place. Ten thousand men are

reported to be detached upon different services, which will effectually break up the army, & leave us here in the state of a simple garrison. Our Commissioners have published a very masterly manifesto, but any good effect which might have been expected to arise from it must be more than counterbalanced by the state of impotency to which we shall be reduced when these detachments go away. The August Packet arrived yesterday, & the Savage Sloop, with the first account of the action between the two fleets, about a week before. No doubt you were very much disappointed by Admiral Keppel's Letter; I do not think our friend Lord Mulgrave would have put off till tomorrow any thing that could have been done the same day. If our dominion of the sea is no more [decisive?] is it not time for all of us [to] quit th[is] country, & take care of our own ho[me]. For my own part I exist only upon the hopes of soon leaving this accursed scene of disgrace, where knaves may make fortunes, fools get into a net, & party villains betray their country, without any dread of the consequences due to their folly or their wickedness.

Your most affect. Friend—

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NEW YORK NOV<sup>R</sup> 21, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

If two Packets had not been taken in their passage hither, I should begin to suspect you have forgotten me, it is so long since I have received any letter from you, that brought by M<sup>r</sup> Eden being the last. I hope the same Gentleman will bring you this safe, after escaping, with his companions the dangers of a winter's passage, & of a powerful enemy who insults us even in the Channel: How unsuccessful their mission has proved is a piece of bad news which will arrive long before them. Their departure will be much regretted by all ranks of people in this place, to whom their conduct has greatly endeared them. There are some appearance as if we should follow them before next summer; & I fear it will prove highly unfortunate for our country if we remain here long. All the detachments are gone away, excepting a body of 2,000 men, under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Col. Campbell, well known for the long imprisonment he suffered at Boston. This body of troops were just on the point of going to sea, when a gale of wind arose, which did some damage to the shipping that they are now detained to repair. They are supposed to be destined first for Georgia, & then for Florida. Part, if not the whole, of D'E斯塔ing's Squadron is got out of Boston, & we are somewhat apprehensive on the account of Gen. Grant's detachment of 5,000 men, which sailed from hence, for the West Indies it is said, about the same time that the French left Boston. I have sent you in the course of the Autumn a Catalogue of the collection I made at Rhode-Island; the first part of the catalogue was inclosed in M<sup>r</sup> Eden's Packet, & went in L<sup>d</sup> Howe's Ship, the Eagle; the second part was committed to the care of Major Knight of the 45<sup>th</sup>, who went home in one of the baggage ships of that Regiment about the middle of October. This Autumn has not been so beautiful as the preceding ones I have passed in this country, but still there have been no days so cold, the thermometer not having yet sunk much below the freezing point. During a heavy gale of wind a few days ago, the Barometer sunk below 29 inches in a situation about 40 feet above high-water-mark, which was lower by 3/10 [of an

inch] than I [ever] saw it before in this country; & w[hat] is the more remarkable, the wind blew all the time from the northward of West. I bear existence only in hopes of returning home soon: M<sup>r</sup> Eden can fully inform you how very disagreeable my situation here is; & I hope you & he will be able to assist me in getting away. Gerard's dispatches to the Court of France, written in Cypher, are taken by the Daphne. The Somerset, a sixty-four, is shipwrecked on the coast of New-England in a gale of wind.

Your affect.

C. BLAGDEN.

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NEW YORK DEC<sup>r</sup> 16, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Since my last letter, which, I hope, will soon be brought safe to you by M<sup>r</sup> Eden, no change has happened in our situation here. About ten days ago, a large detachment went up the North River, in hopes of intercepting a part of the rebel army which was then crossing at King's Ferry into New Jersey. The Convention-Troops had just before passed that way on their march to the southward; and as we learned from the deserters who arrived here that many more had escaped & were concealed in the woods, it was hoped that the presence of the army would favour their coming in. However, not many above a hundred reached us.

No certain accounts are yet received with respect to the destination of Mons<sup>r</sup> D'Estaing's Fleet, so that the opinions here are entirely divided whether he be gone to the West Indies or to Europe. The October Packet is not arrived, but a Vessel which sailed from Falmouth the latter end of September came in yesterday, with an agreeable account of the great number of English Privateers by which she was met.

Just before M<sup>r</sup> Eden left this country he was so kind as to make an application to Sir H. Clinton that I might obtain leave to go home for the winter. I saw the General a few days afterwards on the subject. He did not refuse it, but raised a difficulty, & shewed so clearly his dislike of the application, that though if I had pressed very hard I might possibly have obtained leave, I thought it most expedient to agree upon postponing the matter, till I should get some further accounts from England. As M<sup>r</sup> Eden gave himself the trouble of applying, I think it would be right to let him know what passed, & I should be much obliged to you for doing it if you have an opportunity.

Very little snow has yet fallen, & the Thermometer has never sunk below 18°. But this autumn, which has been very tempestuous, has produced changes in the Baro[meter] totally different from any thin[g] [ever] before seen in this country. At an elevation [about] 40 feet above high-water-mark, the quick silver sunk three or four times below the 29<sup>th</sup> inch, & once was down to 28.86 inches, which is more than .46 of an inch lower than I ever saw it in America before last November. It would be curious to learn whether the autumn be constantly the only season here

which admits of such barometrical changes; but God forbid that I should have an opportunity of observing it.

Your most affect. Friend.

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NEW YORK DEC. 24, 1778.

MY DEAR FRIEND

The October Packet is at length arrived, & I must confess it was no small disappointment to me not to receive by it a letter from you, as it is now above half a year since I had that Honour. Though I have already written you one letter by this Fleet, yet, as some new matter has occurred, I cannot refrain from addressing you again. I had lately an opportunity of seeing a bird much celebrated among the Aldermen of this town, & learning some particulars of its natural history. It is the Tetra Cupido of Linnaeus, called here the Grous. The distinguishing character of this species, its projecting feathers on each side of the upper part of the neck resembling small wings, are said to be peculiar to the male, & to give him a very singular appearance in his flight. The Grous are hatched in July, & attain their full growth about the 20th of September, though the private regulations of the Province used to restrain the shooting them till the beginning of October. They are found among shrub oaks, & in considerable plenty on Long Island about 40 miles from this town, on a part of the dry flat barren country there, called the brushy Plains, on account of the great number of these low scrubbed oaks which grow there. You must already know the singular circumstances of Long Island compared with the rest of this country, that the middle of it is formed into a pretty uniform Plain of great extent, on which no trees appear ever to have grown, called Hampstead Plains. This champaign country terminates eastward in woods, but gradually, & the gradation is made by these brushy oaks, among which the Grous reside. They are hunted by Pointers, the best of which for this purpose are of a very large size, so as to be able to make good their way among & over the infinitude of shrubs with which the country is covered. These birds are said to be much more delicate after the winter is set in; it is, however, scarcely possible to catch them then but by chance, in a snow-storm, when they sometimes come near the Farmer's Houses settled there for shelter, & are shot with the guns which these people always keep loaded for that purpose. I have inclosed you a specimen of the feather, to shew in what manner it is doubled, or lined, for the greater warmth of the bird. Toward the basis of the rachis of the great feather, the supradecomposition not beginning very near the raches, the plumage of the feather is hollow, & would be cold, if a smaller internal feather, arising from the same quill, & remarkably downy, did not fill up this defective place.

Winter is fairly begun, & with unusual severity. This morning, near half an hour after sunrise, the Thermometer was rather below zero, whereas I never found it before lower than  $+4^{\circ}$ . Though this may be a good remedy after the accursed sultry summers, it is certainly a very rough one, & I think our health might be as well restored by a more moderate prescription.

Your most affectionate Friend

C BLAGDEN.

NEW-YORK FEBY 27, 1779.

DEAR SIR,

Since my unfortunate expedition to this fatal country no event has ever given me any sensible pleasure but that which was announced in your last letter. The unanimity shown in your Election is not a little surprising, after what had passed at the Mitre & on other occasions; but the infinite superiority of your pretensions seems to have put even rancour to the blush. May you long enjoy the pleasing & honourable station to which you are called by the most learned body of men upon earth; & present a memorable example to the world, that political intrigues or the effusion of blood, are not the only paths to glory!

My last letters informed you of the severe weather about Christmas. The cold of that season has been amply compensated to us since; all this month & the latter part of January, there has been scarcely any frost, no snow, & but little rain, so that a pleasanter season could never be wished. At the same time be assured this is so rare an event, that no person with whom I have conversed remembers here so mild & pleasant a winter. We have not attempted any military operations till this week, when a party of about 1000 attempted to surprise a body of the rebels at Elizabeth-Town on the neighboring coast of New-Jersey; but most of them had escaped before our troops reached the town. We have no late information from Georgia, except the vague report of another skirmish in which the troops were repulsed. They were making every effort to collect a force in the southern Colonies, with what success is not yet certain, but from some arrangements here it is suspected that we think of sending a reinforcement to Col. Campbell. Nothing [o]f consequence can be done here for [some] time [unle]ss the French should send ano[ther] Squadron of men of war against us, which [will] now get easy admittance into the harbour, as there is now only one large ship here. Lord Mulgrave is so engaged in publick affairs that I fear he has forgotten me; I hear of his writing to Admiral Gambier by every packet, but have not been honoured with a letter since that brought by Gov<sup>r</sup> Johnstone. Remember me to D<sup>r</sup> Solander, Lloyd & all our friends, whom I cannot cease to love, though I now despair of ever seeing them again. I have the Honour to be your most affect. Friend,

C B

NEW-YORK APR. 10, 1779.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Your Letter of the 12th of November arrived safe with the last fleet from England. I send you this by an old acquaintance (as he says) & fellow-labourer in the endless work of natural-history, Captain Davies; who has certainly found better opportunities of collecting in this country than any person belonging to the army. He intends to be a candidate for admission into the Royal Society, & I suppose will give you a sop by making an handsome present to your Museum. Davies seems to have got every thing that was brought to me in Rhode Island, except the Scapog-bird mentioned in my catalogue, which, I believe, he never saw. The

Troops still remain in winter-quarters; but the weather is now very warm, which has brought the peach-trees into full blossom. As this is acknowledged to be a very forward season here, you will judge by that circumstance how much later the Spring is in this country than in England. As far as I can learn the trees do not blossom earlier in South Carolina than about London. It is amusing to observe the difference of weather in New-York & in Rhode-Island; what is a thick fog in the latter place, appears here as a kind of haze, which makes the sun shine faint, & gives a somewhat greater chilliness to the air than seems consistent with its real warmth as shewn by the thermometer. In Philadelphia that haziness is still less, though very perceptible ever so far to the westward. Various reports of peace come in to us from the rebels; whether they really expect such an event, or mean only, by spreading those rumors, to keep the people more satisfied for a time, we cannot yet learn. No preparations are making on their side for a vigorous campaign; no quotas of men are appointed for the different *States* to raise, as in all the former years of the war. This conduct is inexplicable on no other principles than those of complete security, or absolute inability. Commissioners from us are to meet others on the part of the rebels next week, to settle the exchange of prisoners, which, after so many prevarications, is now thought likely to be affected on a liberal footing. I hope your resolution of adhering to our Club in preference of the Mitre will not be the cause of any faction in the Royal Society. Every hand, every head should now be united to raise the Society, if possible, to its primitive lustre. Luckily most of the Mitre Gentlemen, part from old-age, & part from want of capa[city] are not likely to have been very valuabl[e] contrib[utors]. Shall you continue to bestow the Med[al] ann[uall]y like your predecessor, or shall you re-serve it fo[r] three or four years even, if unfortunately there should be such a dearth of genius, till there occurs some truly important discovery?—Be so kind as to remember me to our common Friends, Dr Solander & M<sup>r</sup> Lloyd particularly; and to M<sup>r</sup> Eden if you please, & should ever happen to see him amidst his hurry of Politics.

I have the Honour to be  
dear Sir,  
your most obliged & affect. Friend

C B.

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NEW-YORK MAY 3, 1779.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Though, perhaps, I might find it somewhat difficult to produce my Author, yet, believe me, the story of your having taken a command in the militia was not of my own invention: I have always thought it was M<sup>r</sup> Eden who told me so at our first interview, but he did not confirm it in our subsequent conversations. For the interests of science I rejoice to find the report false. I sent you a letter about three weeks since by Capt<sup>n</sup> Davies of the Artillery, a brother naturalist, who sailed in the last fleet for England. Your favour of the 6<sup>th</sup> of January arrived safe a few

days ago by the Content Packet-Boat. Since that time one small expedition has been sent out, to attempt the surprise of a two parties of the rebels at Middletown & Shrewsbury in New-Jersey, but without much success; another expedition of about two thousand men, is now sailing, but their destination is a profound secret, & well kept. The weather is fine & fit for any operations which do not require a quantity of forage upon the ground. We suppose here that your old friend Sir Hugh is utterly ruined; but how comes Lord Mulgrave to be involved in the scrape? why should his windows be sacrificed to the joy of Keppel's acquittal? Though every person is of opinion that the charge against the Admiral was not duly supported, yet the Court-Martial is universally thought to have shewn an indecent partiality, & to have acted with unbecoming violence in the censure upon our noble friend. Our idle people are daily disputing whether the remonstrance of the Admirals is to be deemed *spirited* or *mutinous*. The dissensions among the rebels are still violent, though perhaps less so than two months ago; their paper currency is reduced to a 20<sup>th</sup> part of its original value, and the Indians are threatening their frontiers in the most formidable manner; but still I do not find that they relent, or that the French Party loses ground among them. Various letters have been sent here mentioning that Dr Nooth is coming out with the supreme direction of all the hospitals; perhaps I am the only person interested in such an event to whom an hint of it has not been given by friends in England which you must acknowledge to be a very mortifying reflexion for me. In every matter that does not interfere immediately with my own interest, there is scarcely any person in the world who has more my good wishes than Dr Nooth; but this affair touches too sensibly, & will bring me at all risks from this country, if I find, as I have now great reason to fear, that my friends have been inattentive on this occasion as his have been active. I have already informed L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave of my apprehensions, & shall not write to him now, from the probability of his being at sea when this letter arrives. Remember me to all friends, & permit me to subscribe myself ever your obliged & affectionate CB.

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NEW-YORK, JUN. 16, 1779.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

By a private ship from England I had the Honour of receiving your February Letter. I have now the satisfaction of informing you that our Army has taken the field, and met with some little success in the capture of two posts which the rebels had fortified to command an important pass over the North River, called the King's Ferry, about 44 miles above this town. We have now been raising works at the same place, & made it a very strong post, particularly that fort which is situated on the west side of the river, & which the rebels had not had time to finish when we made the attack, which was headed by your or L<sup>d</sup> Mulgrave's acquaintance, General Pattison. About 12 or 14 miles further up the river, the rebels have a very strong Fort, at a place called West-Point, with a numerous garrison, & every provision for a stout defence: M<sup>r</sup> Washington's Army is also moved to cover

it, but we do not know here that Sir Henry Clinton has any intention of attacking it. An Expedition was sent last month into Virginia, which met with great success in destroying large quantities of stores belong[ing] to the rebels, & in bringing away a fine booty, which is to be divided between the navy & army employed upon that service; the first instance, I believe, of a regular division of plunder in America this war. General Matthew & Sir George Collier were the Commanders, & their respective shares, it is supposed, will amount to about £5000 sterling. We have not lately received any direct accounts from Georgias but those transmitted to us by the rebels have borne so favorable an aspect, that many people believe General Prevôt is already in possession of Charlestown in South Carolina, notwithstanding a report lately propagated that we were repulsed with loss in the attack. We are very impatient to hear from your side of the water, & hope you will send us peace, the negotiations for which, as the rebels give out, are very far advanced, but on such terms that we cannot credit them. The best symptoms of distress I can perceive among them is the excessive depreciation of their paper-money, which is now so great that [their] bills will scarcely answer as a [means] of commerce; in some places, especially within reach of the gold & silver circulating from this army, one silver dollar will purchase thirty of paper! Unfortunately I have nothing philosophical, nothing but these vile politics, to send you; except that the season here has been extremely fine. When you see Lord Mulgrave, who I suppose is now out at sea, be so kind as to remember me to him, and likewise to my good friends Dr Solander & Lloyd. I have the Honour to be,

dear Sir,  
Your most obliged & affect. Friend C. B.

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NEW YORK Aug. 27, 1779.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Permit me to offer you my warmest congratulations upon your entrance into that state, in which, as they say, the greatest human happiness is to be found; I hope you may enjoy every bliss of which it is susceptible, free from all alloy.

We have very far from good news to send you from this side of the Atlantic. Besides the unfortunate events in the West-Indies, of which you will have received a better account than we, the rebels have insulted two of our posts on the North River, one of which they carried effectually & were very near succeeding with the other. The first of these affairs, that of Stony-Point, you must have already learned by the last packet; the second happened on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month before day-break, when the rebels attacked Paulus Hook, a promontory across the North-River exactly opposite this town, made themselves masters of the greatest part of it, & carried off 140 prisoners from the garrison stationed there to defend it. For some weeks we have been merely on the defensive; our troops within the lines, and in a very inactive state. I hope the reinforcements now arrived, small as they are, will enable Sir H. Clinton to take the field, and obliged Mr Washington to recede at least, if he cannot be brought to an engagement. We

have rumors of movements upon the Lakes from Quebec, & hope to get some good news from that quarter. The grand expedition of the rebels against the Indians is not likely to be very successful; their progress is slow, and the Indians are always harrassing them in small parties. Do not imagine, however, that these circumstances have dispirited the rebels; so far from it that I believe they are now more sanguine & determined than at [any] period of the war:— Now for myself. Dr Nooth is arrived with most extravagant powers. [I] might, perhaps, have borne anything else, this I will not, but am determined to quit the country as soon as I can with decency, upon leave of absence if possible, but if that cannot be obtained, by resigning my commission. I hope all my friends will see as strongly as I do the necessity of this step, & approve my conduct.

I have the Honour to be,  
dear Sir,

Your most obliged & affectionate Friend

CB.

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MY DEAR FRIEND,

M<sup>r</sup> Whitehurst provided me with an excellent pair of scales, with which I found the bottle filled with water agree every time in weight within a grain. When two measures of air were in, the weight varied between two & three grains; & different experiments with the nitrous air always gave a result within 100 of the whole. This is, I am afraid, much nearer than the other circumstances of the test. I went to Essex, and have given in my report. The latter end of next week I leave town for the summer. If you have any acquaintances at Plymouth, or know any one who has, I should be glad to be introduced to them. By Dr Solander when he comes back, I hope to learn how long you intend to stay at Springrove, that I may make you a visit there if possible. I beg the Ladies to accept my best Respects; & have the Honour to be,

Your very affect. Friend

C BLAGDEN.

SOHO SQUARE, MAY 17, 1780.

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MY DEAR FRIEND,

Before this time you would have been informed of my arrival in Plymouth if I could have found an opportunity of speaking with the M<sup>r</sup> Lloyd, to whom you honoured me with a letter; but he has been out of town, and I am not likely to see any thing of him till next week: in the mean time I have left at his house your Letter & my address. Strange & very deplorable scenes have presented themselves to you since we parted; too much like an earnest of the dreadful calamity which, I know, seems to you, as well as to me, impending over the nation. Though that part of the town where you live was not the principal object of outrage with the mob, yet, I fear, the Ladies must have been very much alarmed, as the devastations appeared at one time likely to become general. Last Tuesday an Order arrived to the com-

manding Officer in this garrison that the military force should be called into action, if occasion required, for suppressing all illegal & tumultuous assemblies of the people, without applying to the civil magistrate. This desperate remedy, however necessary, proves at least the alarming situation of the Patient. Colonel Osborn, of our Club is here.

I found Bath about ten days later than London, I mean in the hedges & wild plants; the hills more than a fortnight later; all the road from Taunton to Exeter 5 or 6 days forwarder than Bath; the country between Exeter & Plymouth, bordering on Dartmoor, nearly the same as Bath, but Plymouth & its environs as forward as Exeter. Pease were began to be sold in Bath, Exeter & Plymouth about the same time, that is, a fortnight ago; but they were not nearly ripe at Taunton when I passed through there last Saturday, though the hedges were so much forwarder than at Bath; such are the happy effects of cultivation, & of the truly valuable art of the Gardener.

If there should happen to be any thing in which I can be useful to you in this part of England, I shall feel the sincerest pleasure in receiving your commands. I beg the Ladies of your Family to accept my best respects; & am

dear Sir,  
Your obliged and affectionate Friend  
C BLAGDEN.

[Endorsed]: D<sup>r</sup> BLAGDEN  
June 21, 1780.

Makers  
Syracuse, N. Y.  
PAT. JAN. 21, 1898

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